

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01432 150126Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

-----060755 150208Z /66

P R 140915Z JUL 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8189

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAPIEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1432

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: YEH CHIEN-YING'S BIRTHDAY POEM

1. SUMMARY. THE JULY 14 PEOPLE'S DAILY AND KUANMING DAILY CARRY FRONT-PAGE FACSIMILIES OF A POEM WRITTEN BY PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING TO MARK HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY. BOTH PAPERS ALSO RUN ON PAGE ONE AN INTERPRETIVE ARTICLE BY THE PSEUDONYMOUS SHANG KUNG; A PARENTHETICAL NOTE INDICATES THAT THE PIECE WAS SUBMITTED BY LIBERATION ARMY DAILY. THE ARTICLE IS WRITTEN IN EFFUSIVE, EVEN EULOGISTIC STYLE; YEH IS PRAISED FOR HIS "GIGANTIC CONTRIBUTIONS" TO THE CHINESE REVOLUTION, FOR REMAINING IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE "DEFENDING CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE, FOR BEING UNSELFISH "LIKE PREMIER CHOU, AND FOR "ASSISTING" CHAIRMAN HUA TO SMASH THE GANG OF FOUR, THEREBY "RESPECTING THE BEHEST LEFT BEHIND BY CHAIRMAN MAO" AND "WINNING THE LOVE OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY". PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE, WHICH CONCLUDES WITH A WISH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01432 150126Z

FOR "HEALTH AND LONG LIFE" FOR "RESPECTED AND BELOVED VICE CHAIRMAN YEH, WHO IS LIKE A GREEN PINT ATOP MT TAI" -- ADDS TO THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE CURRENT INTERNAL SCENE. TO IGNORE THE PARTY ANNIVERSARY AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF CHU TEH'S PASSING AND YET HIGHLIGHT YEH'S 80TH BIRTHDAY MAKES ONE WONDER IF THE VENERABLE YEH IS THE SOLE REMAINING RALLYING POINT AND SYMBOL OF UNITY IN CHINA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JULY 14 PEOPLE'S DAILY AND KUANGMING DAILY GIVE FRONT PAGE PROMINENCE TO A POEM BY PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING. BOTH PAPERS PUBLISH A FACSIMILE OF YEH'S CALLIGRAPHY, A RENDITION OF THE POEM IN STANDARD CHARACTERS, AND AN ARTICLE BY ONE SHANG KUNG.

3. YEH'S POEM IS WRITTEN IN CLASSICAL STYLE AND, ACCORDING TO SHANG KUNG'S EXEGESIS, DRAFTED TO REVEAL YEH'S THOUGHTS ON REACHING THE AGE OF 80. THE POEM IS DATED MAY 14 -- EXACTLY TWO MONTHS AGO AND PRESUMABLY YEH'S BIRTHDAY.

4. SHANG KUNG (PRESUMABLY A PSEUDONYM MEANING, PERHAPS " RESPECTED GENTLEMAN" IF ONE FREELY RENDERS MEANING AND HOMONYMS) ORIGINALLY DRAFTED THE EXEGETICAL ARTICLE FOR LIBERATION ARMY DAILY ACCORDING TO A NOTE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE ARTICLE WAS IN FACT PUBLISHED EARLIER IN LIBERATION ARMY DAILY.

5. THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF SHANG KUNG'S ARTICLE IS ITS EFFUSIVE, EVEN EULOGISTIC, STYLE. EMPLOYING PHRASES AND FORMULAS CUSTOMARILY BROUGHT FORTH ON THE DEATH OF NATIONAL LEADERS THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT YEH:

--WAS "UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN MAO AN OUTSTANDING COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER AND PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARY" (BOTH PHRASES WERE CONTAINED IN THE OBITUARIES FOR KANG SHENG AND CHOU EN-LAI) WHO MADE "GIGANTIC CONTRIBUTIONS"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 01432 150126Z

TO THE NEW DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION AND THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

--WAS ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE DEFENDING CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE, "ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDSST OF THE MOST RECENT STRUGGLE." YEH, "RESPECTING THE BEHEST LEFT BEHIND BY CHAIRMAN MAO, ASSISTED CHAIRMAN HUA" IN SMASHING THE GANG OF FOUR, SAVING THE REVOLUTION AND PARTY, AND THEREBY WINNING THE LOVE OF ALL.

--WAS COMFORTED ON SEEING THAT CHINA HAD A RELIABLE HELSMAN (CHAIRMAN HUA).

--IS, LIKE PREMIER CHOU, UNSELFISH AND UNCNCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN POSITION. YEH, AS A MAN TYPICAL OF THE OLD GENERATION OF REVOLUTIONARIES, MADE RIGOROUS AND STERN DEMANDS UPON HIMSELF.

6. SHANG KUNG NOTES IN CONCLUSION THAT "OUR POET" (YEH) HAS A SPIRIT WHICH GROWS STRONGER WITH AGE, THE SPIRIT OF "REVOLUTIONARY OPTIMISM". SHANG THEN WISHES "HEALTH AND A LONG LIFE TO ESPECTED AND BELOVED VICE CHAIRMAN HEY CHIEN-YING,

WHO IS LIKE A GREEN PINE ATOP MT.TAH."

7. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF THE POEM AND ARTICLE COMPOUNDS THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE. WHEN THE OFFICIAL PRESS IGNORED THE PARTY ANNIVERSARY AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF CHU TEH'S PASSING, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FATHOM WHY YEH'S 80TH BIRTHDAY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL PROMINENCE --ESPECIALLY TWO MONTHS AFTER THE FACT. MAO' BIRTHDAY WAS NEVER MARKED, NOR HAS IT BEEN THE CUSTOM TO COMMENT ON BIRTHDAYS OF CHINA'S LEADERS. SEVERAL POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS COME TO MIND, INCLUDING:

--AT A TIME OF TOP-LEVEL CONTENTION AND QUARRELING, THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PEKING 01432 150126Z

VENERABLE -- AND GENUINELY RESPECTED --YEH IS THE SOLE
REMAINING RALLYING POINT FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

--THE AUTHOR'S INTENT IS TO DRAW AN EXPLICIT LINKAGE
BETWEEN YEH AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE OLD GENERATION OF
REVOLUTIONARIES -- TENG HSIAO-POING -- AND THERBY ADVANCE
TENG'S CAUSE IN THE ONGOING DEBATES.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PEKING01432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770251-1041
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770757/aaaabxmx.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a680566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861418
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YEH CHIEN-YING'S BIRTHDAY POEM
TAGS: PINT, CH, (YEH CHIEN YING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a680566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009